Dear Parents/Carers, Colleagues and Friends,

It hardly seems possible that we are rapidly approaching the end of another school year but indeed we are. Times goes more quickly when you are busy and pupils have certainly been that, both in class and out, as you will see from this newsletter.

The roundup of the year in pictures (pages 6 and 7) gives an insight into just what Grange Park is about and what pupils have managed to achieve. I was asked if there was a need for captions for these photos and of course there isn't - each one of those pictures tells its own story about such things as vocational work, school trips, fund raising for charity or just having fun.

The data the school produces is based largely on academic achievement and serious issues such as pupil behaviour and safeguarding. However feedback from parents is more often about the impact of Grange Park on their children as they grow oh so quickly towards adulthood and we believe that celebrating all successes, both big and small, goes a long way to enabling our pupils to gain confidence. This newsletter is about picking up on some of these and showcasing the achievements that come from beyond the curriculum.

In terms of the curriculum, parents of Year 9 pupils will have received a letter about options – this is the first time we have been able to offer these and is an exciting part of our overhaul of the Key Stage 4 curriculum offer. The whole process is designed to support pupils in achieving accreditation at the right level and then to be able to access the course they want at college.

The college partnerships continue to grow and our college students are flourishing at Mid-Kent Gillingham, and Hadlow Colleges (see the student comments on page 9). In September we will be opening a partnership with Mid-Kent Maidstone and I am sure this will be a success.

The end of the academic year can also be a time of fluctuation in terms of staffing and I do need to let you know of some changes for September. Carol Anderson has decided to take a break from teaching; I am sure you would want me to pass on your best wishes to her. However on a positive note, we will be welcoming Sharon Brookes to teach Food Technology and Design Technology.

Returning to the theme of celebrating success, congratulations are due to Matthew Peacock and Sandra Regan who gained Qualified Teacher Status in June. At a time when the numbers of people leaving teaching is increasing, it is good to grow our own!

Last but not least: as the hot summer sunshine turns to grey drizzle I realise it truly is summer and that means the Talent Show and Barbeque is happening at a school near(ish) you. See you there.

Peter Green

Upcoming Events
Friday 24th July — End of Term 6
Monday 7th September — Start of Term 1 for pupils
Grange Park News

Life never stays still at Grange Park School and we are always planning for the future. The partnership at Key Stage 5 Medway is now coming up to the end of its fourth year and the one at Hadlow, its second year. We are really pleased that since embarking on these partnerships the number of students leaving Grange Park without going into further education or employment is nil. A huge achievement for any special school. We are therefore excited about the new partnership which will be starting at Mid Kent College, Maidstone in September. We look forward to seeing how the students going there grow and develop over the next few years.

The curriculum is the backbone of our work in school and outlines all that we teach the pupils. In September, there will be some changes to the KS4 curriculum in particular. Firstly, GCSE Accreditation in English and Maths is changing from traditional Grades of A* - F to numbers. The other subjects will follow in the coming years. As a school, we are also looking at developing the curriculum from Year 9 onwards (Key Stage 4) so that it not only meets the needs of our pupils but also offers challenge and the ability to succeed. We are introducing options for the first time whereby all pupils will study a core curriculum of English, Maths, Science, ICT, RE, PE and Citizenship along with a choice of a further three subjects. These will be either academic or vocational depending on the needs and aspirations of the pupil.

Technology is also an area which we are always looking to develop and expand upon. You may be aware that we have added Surface Pros to our range of technology available for pupils to use in school. These enhance the learning experience and provide yet another platform from which pupils can access their learning, removing some of the barriers that our pupils face.

Parents in Years 8, 9, 10 and KS5 were also the guinea pigs for our new online Parents Evening Booking system. The feedback was that it was easy to use and it was certainly good to see parents having more control over the choice of teachers they wished to speak to at Parents Evening. We will now be rolling this out across the Wrotham site. Of course, if parents don’t have access to the internet, we will be happy to make appointments on their behalf.

Hopefully too, you have checked out the new school website at http://www.grange-park-school-kent.co.uk. We hope that this will be a useful resource for Grange Park parents and pupils as well as other professionals and people with an interest in finding out more autism. We will be updating it regularly and in time, will hopefully develop a VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) where pupils can access their learning and build upon it outside of school.

Charity Fundraising

Following the success of the Comic Relief Cake Raffle, 10a thought that it would be a good idea to run an Easter Cake Raffle to raise more money for charity. After a thorough discussion, they decided on Cancer Relief. The cake was kindly donated by Mrs Ebbs and Mrs Gould and the class raised £55. The lucky winner was William B who took it home for his family to enjoy.

Group 2 also made prayer flags to raise money for the Nepal disaster. They sold flags for 50p each and pupils wrote a prayer or good wish on them. The flags were then hung up in the sensory garden. The class raised £38.50 for Nepal and sent money to the Red Cross. Many thanks for all your contributions.
HyperJapan Visit

On Friday 10th July, several students from Year 11 travelled to the O2 arena in London, to attend ‘Hyper Japan’ – a festival celebrating all things Japanese.

Adam and Sean sampled a selection of Japanese food, including ‘tempura prawns’, ‘soba noodles’ and ‘takoyaki octopus’! Harrison and Liam enjoyed playing the latest computer games from Japan, whilst the whole group were impressed by the number of colourful characters attending the event as their favourite anime personalities.

Well done to those who overcame their anxieties about travelling on trains and using the London Underground – I am very proud of you.

Mr Peacock

Science Trips

There is nothing like having “hands on” experience to reinforce the skills that the pupils learn in class and this term, the Science Department has been busy putting into practice everything that they have covered over the year with a variety of field trips.

Year 7 went to Wildwood, where the pupils looked at different habitats and used different sampling techniques to estimate animal populations. They explored the wildlife park and thoroughly enjoyed seeing all the animals in their different habitats. Everyone did so well, they found lots of different insects and had a brilliant day!

Year 8 also went to Wildwood. This time the class took part in an ‘adaptation’ workshop. The pupils examined skulls, skins and antlers in order to deduce which animal they came from and link that to the animal’s adaptation. Some pupils were impressive in their reasoning ability, and managed to identify nearly all specimens correctly.

Year 9 went by train and underground to the Science Museum in London. They explored the Science Museum and thoroughly enjoyed the interesting exhibits. Big thanks to Joshua P who planned the train route and timings for the whole trip to perfection.

One Year 10 class and Year 11 went to Kent Wildlife Trust at Reculver. They took part in a sea shore ecological survey and collected many interesting specimens, including a pregnant crab. They also observed coastal erosion and visited a nearby ruined castle.

The other Year 10 class went to Kent County Show. This group is going to be following the Environment Land Based Studies course, at GCSE next year and the County Show was very interesting in showing pupils local produce and livestock.

All in all, it has been a very busy and productive couple of terms and we look forward to building on the skills and knowledge that the pupils have gained in the next academic year.

Mrs Taylor
Celebrating Success

Grange Park Panathlon Team

The Grange Park School trophy cabinet has gained yet another award after the Panathlon team returned triumphant from the Panathlon Challenge West Kent 2015 earlier this term. Grange Park joined up with pupils from Five Acre Wood and Valance Schools to win the title, a first for the Malling and Sevenoaks team.

The win came after a three gruelling qualifying rounds and is part of the wider Kent School Games. 241 competitors from 18 schools started the competition and the final saw a tense finish, with the Malling and Sevenoaks team pipping Canterbury and reigning Kent champions Ashford to the title.

A big well done to Henry C, Connor, Enrique, Laurence, Harry S, Reece, Michael, Leeanne, Lewis D, Alex and Jack J. They all worked together as a team and coped with the noise and bustle of the venue well. They also got to meet a Paralympian who presented the awards.

Kwik Cricket

Year 9 pupils had a great day at the Kwik Cricket event in Kings Hill. The pupils played really well and showed great sportsmanship. We found out that we have some budding cricketers in our school. Well done Grange Park!

Sports Day 2015

Grange Park sports day was a fantastic event. We were lucky with the weather and staff and pupils had a great day. Key Stage 5 did a brilliant job helping staff man the different events around the course.

It was lovely to see so many parents who were able to come and share the day with us. A big thank you to all the parents who joined in with the parent versus staff race. I expect everyone will be in training for next year!

Hadlow College Presentation Day

Congratulations to Holly and Douglas who were both given awards at the Hadlow College Presentation Day. Holly won the prize for “Best Practical Student” and Douglas was awarded a Distinction in a College First Diploma in Public Services. Both prizes were well deserved and show the hard work and commitment that the students put into their work. Well done to both of them.
Mathletics

Earlier this term, the Maths department was a hive of competition with pupils trialling a new and exciting online programme, Mathletics. Pupils use the programme to independently work at the four areas of maths. This gives them the opportunity to excel in the areas that they are good at whilst being given guidance to make progress in areas where they need more support.

The pupils are enjoying Mathletics as not only does this mean that they get a lesson a week using the new Surface Pros but once they have finished their ‘work’ for the lesson, they are able to challenge their classmates or children from around the world to maths challenges.

Pupils are collecting points from their ‘work’ tasks and the challenges and can use these to ‘buy’ accessories for their characters and earn certificates. 1000 points a week earns a bronze award (many children have already earned three). Five bronze certificates earns a silver (we hope to see lots of these in Week 5). Four silver awards earns a gold (we hope to see some of these in time for Christmas).

Children can use Mathletics at any time for homework. If usernames and passwords have been misplaced please contact me and I will reissue them.

Mrs Gould

Key Stage 5 at Wrotham Enterprise

The Key Stage 5 Enterprise Scheme is going from strength to strength. The bird houses which the group made in Term 5 were so popular that they are now in the process of making another batch. The paper bricks made by Group 1 are also selling fast.

Group 2 also had a very successful day washing cars for staff and visitors. They washed twelve in total and managed to raise £48 in the process.

Over the year, the group have raised £196 with their enterprise activities and all funds raised have gone towards the Key Stage 5 end of term dinner.

Tryangle Awards

Regan (Year 7) and Keighley (Year 11) have both been nominated for a Tryangle Award, which is a Kent County Council award for “people aged 11-18 in the community who really try, often with little recognition, to do their best!”

Both pupils deserve to be nominated as they are continually helping and thinking of others before themselves. Regan received a certificate and Keighley will hear at the start of September if she has received a certificate or an award.
Highlights of the Grange Park Year

Here are just a few of the things that pupils and students have been doing this year.
As we will be saying goodbye to the Year 14s and the Year 11s will be making the transition into post-16 education either at the Wrotham site or one of our partnerships at Mid Kent College Medway, Mid Kent College Maidstone or Hadlow College, we thought it would be good to get a snapshot of their aspirations for the future and what they are looking forward to.

Aspirations for the future

At Grange Park I have enjoyed my work experience at Leybourne stables and helping with the rangers at Leybourne lakes.
I have met new people who have taught me to learn in a working environment.
I will miss looking after the chickens and my friends. Harry (KS5)

My time at Grange Park is coming to an end and this year has been challenging.
I want to do motor vehicles and get a job in Formula 1. Also I will continue to play cricket for as long as I can and I hope to get more wickets and runs. Chris A (KS5)

I am looking forward to learning about Computer Programming. Harrison (Y11)

I am looking forward to learning about Music in September. Keighley (Y)

I am looking forward to having more independence.

I am looking forward to Creative Studies at college as it will help me move on to what I want to do when I leave college. Mitchell (Y11)

I am looking forward to joining Key Stage 5 in September. Joseph (Y11)

I am looking forward to being more independent in Key Stage 5. Jordan (Y11)

Well as I’m leaving Grange Park next year I might as well say that in September, I’m leaving Hadlow College. I will be doing level 3 animal management at my new college. I am looking forward to exploring, see what’s there and hopefully find a job that I will like doing and become more independent. ffinlo (Hadlow)

I am looking forward to learning mechanics at college. Liam (Y11)

I think I will enjoy woodwork at college. Ashley (Y11)
As the year comes to an end at our satellites at Mid Kent College Medway and Hadlow, here is a round up of some of our students’ experiences.

Grange Park at Mid Kent College and Hadlow

This year I enjoyed being at college. I learnt a lot of new things, and have completed my qualification. I met new friends at college. I play yu-gi-oh in the social zone at breaks. Next year I am looking forward to being more independent and I am going to do a GAP course. Max (MKC)

My first year at MidKent College has been an excellent progress in my education. One of the many things I have enjoyed was Animation. She has made the subject very easy to understand and fun to work with. Film Club has also been fun experiencing different genres of films, working with Steve in Media and what goes on in society such as health, wellbeing, education. English has also one of the biggest success as I have progressed to Level 2. Very proud of that. Maths became a difficult subject to study as it was not very clearly laid out or explained, but on 19th June, I had progressed to Level 1 Maths. The preparation for the Showcase on June 4th went awry as everything was changed at last minute every five minutes. Ryan A (MKC)

I have enjoyed working with the Pygmy goats; Henry Hector and Herbie, the Tiger Salamander called Keith and getting to work with different types of animals this year. I looked forward to learning more things next year for Level 2 Animal Management. I didn’t like doing IFS this year and look forward to not doing that. I still had to do Maths and English but did well on my exams. For travel training I went on the bus to different places and I liked Maidstone because of the posh way it looked and Steph gave brilliant support. Holly (Hadlow)

I am liking college better than school. I get the train to and from college. I go to the gym every day. I have made some really good friends and I am always independent which makes me feel proud. In September I will be doing a Level 1 Motor Vehicle course. Chris (MKC)
Parents’ Group

We have had a busy year with lots of interesting speakers and discussions. We have also seen several new faces at the meetings, with some people turning up every time and others dipping in and out depending on the topic. That is the great thing about the Parents Group; the programme is published in advance so that you can pick and choose which topics are of interest and simply come along to those sessions if you can’t make them all. Of course the other great thing is the tea and biscuits and the friendly ear!

Along with the meetings, we have also held some social events during the holidays whereby families can come along together and have some fun. About 8 Grange Park families regularly come along (about 30 of us which is brilliant!) as well as some from Milestone School too. Keep an eye out on in the newsletter and the school website for details of our next events.

We look forward to another busy year next year and also to welcoming all parents of the new Year 7s and Year 12s in September.

And Finally

The Grange Park cockerels are looking for a new home. We have six cockerels which we hatched from eggs but they are now getting too big for the run and we would like to see them go to a good home. If any parents, friends or family are willing to rehouse any of them, please contact Mr Sim.

Grange Park School Term Dates 2015—2016

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 24th July 2015</td>
<td>End of Term 6</td>
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<td>Monday 7th September</td>
<td>Start of the 2015—2016 Academic year for pupils</td>
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<td>Friday 23rd October</td>
<td>End of Term 1</td>
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<td>Monday 2nd November</td>
<td>Start of Term 2</td>
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<td>Friday 18th December</td>
<td>End of Term 2</td>
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<td>Tuesday 5th January 2016</td>
<td>Start of Term 3 for pupils</td>
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<td>Tuesday 23rd February</td>
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<td>Tuesday 12th April</td>
<td>Start of Term 5 for pupils</td>
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<td>Friday 27th May</td>
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<td>Monday 6th June</td>
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<td>Friday 22nd July</td>
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Please note that the term dates for Grange Park @ MKC and Grange Park @ Hadlow may differ slightly from the above. Term dates for both satellites can be found on the Grange Park website.

We hope you have a lovely, restful summer!